Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118119 ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 PA-02 JUSE-00 NRC-07 FTC-01 SEC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 ISO-00 /185 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/BP:T A SCHLENKER:BT

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/BP:THOMAS A SCHLENKER, ACTING DIRECTOR

EUR/RPE:R LAMANTIA

EUR/CAN:G MONROE

EUR/NE:D GOODMAN

EUR/W:E BEIGEL

EA/ANP:T WAJDA

L/EB:S BENSON

EB/ORF/FSE:W RAMSAY

L/OES:E STEINBERG

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OR 092135Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 118119

PARIS FOR OECD; BRUSSELS FOR EC

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SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: OUTCOME OF FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF URANIUM PRODUCER'S CARTEL

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS MADE AVAILABLE MAY 9

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TODAY FILED A MISDEMEANOR INFORMATION AGAINST GULF OIL CORPORATION CHARGING A VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 OF THE SHERMAN ACT ARISING OUT OF GULF'S ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL URANIUM CARTEL BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974.

- 2. QUOTE ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN B. BELL SAID THE CHARGE WAS CONTAINED IN A ONE-COUNT CRIMINAL INFORMATION FILED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN PITTSBURGH. IT CONCLUDES AN 18-MONTH INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
- 3. QUOTE THE INFORMATION STATES THAT GULF PRODUCES AND SELLS URANIUM IN THE UNITED STATES AND, THROUGH ITS CANADIAN SUBSIDIARY, GULF MINERALS, CANADA, LTD., IN CANADA.
- 4. QUOTE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN H. SHENEFIELD, IN CHARGE OF THE ANTITRUST DIVISION, SAID THE CRIMINAL INFORMATION CHARGES GULF WITH CONSPIRING WITH OTHER URANIUM PRODUCERS BETWEEN FEBRUARY, 1972, AND DECEMBER, 1974, TO FIX THE PRICES AT WHICH THE COMPANIES SOLD FOREIGNSOURCE URANIUM TO UNITED STATES MIDDLEMEN, TO SELL TO UNITED STATES MIDDLEMEN, TO SELL TO UNITED STATES MIDDLEMEN ONLY AT DISCRIMINATORILY HIGH PRICES, AND TO REFUSE TO SELL TO WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION, A UNITED STATES MIDDLEMAN.

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- 5. QUOTE MIDDLEMEN ARE COMPANIES -- INCLUDING BROKERS, NUCLEAR REACTOR MANUFACTURERS, AND NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATORS -- THAT PURCHASE URANIUM FOR RESALE.
- 6. QUOTE. THE CRIMINAL INFORMATION ALLEGES THAT, BETWEEN 1971 AND 1975, GULF AND OTHER PRODUCERS OF FOREIGN-SOURCE URANIUM WERE MEMBERS OF AN INTERNATIONAL URANIUM CARTEL THAT AGREED TO STABIILIZE PRICES FOR FOREIGN-SOURCE URANIUM AND TO ALLOCATE URANIUM SALES AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP.
- 7. QUOTE. AGREEMENTS ON THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF UNITED STATES MIDDLEMEN, CHARGED AS A SHERMAN ACT VIOLATION IN THE CRIMINAL INFORMATION, ARE ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN TERMS OF THE CARTEL ARRANGEMENT.
- 8. QUOTE DURING THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY PERIOD, UNITED STATES MIDDLEMEN, INCLUDING WESTINGHOUSE, PURCHASED OR ATTEMPTED TO PURCHASE SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF FOREIGN-SOURCE URANIUM.
- 9. QUOTE THIS URANIUM IS GENERALLY IMPORTED INTO THE

UNITED STATES WHERE IT IS SUBJECTED TO A NUMBER OF PROCESSES THAT CHANGE IT INTO A FORM SUITABLE FOR USE AS A NUCLEAR FUEL.

10. QUOTE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY UPON CONVICTION FOR A MISDEMEANOR VIOLATION OF THE SHERMAN ACT BY A CORPORATION IS A \$50,000 FINE. UNQUOTE.

11. TEXT OF THE CHARGE "INFORMATION" IS BEING POUCHED. IN STATES IN PART THAT QUOTE VARIOUS CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, ENTITIES, AND INDIVIDUALS NOT NAMED AS DEFENDANTS IN THIS INFORMATION PARTICIPATED AS CO-CONSPIRATORS WITH THE DEFENDANT IN THE OFFENSE CHARGED HEREIN, AND PERFORMED ACTS AND MADE STATEMENTS IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF. UNQUOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT: THESE CO-CONSPIRATORS ARE NOT RPT NOT NAMED. VANCE

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TAGS: ETRD, AS, UK, FR, SF, CA, OECD To: OTTAWA LONDON MULTIPLE

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